Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery having at least a lithium-transition metal composite oxide of a layer structure,

~~wherein~~ wherein:

the lithium-transition metal composite oxide is lithium cobaltate,

an existence ratio of zirconium and magnesium is respectively 20% or more on a surface of the ~~lithium-transition metal composite oxide and~~ lithium cobaltate, and

at least a part of the zirconium on said surface is present as lithium zirconate and at least a part of the magnesium on said surface is present as magnesium oxide.

3-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery, comprising:

a strip positive electrode constituted by forming, on at least one side of a strip positive electrode current collector, a positive electrode active material layer employing the positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2;

a strip negative electrode constituted by forming, on at least one side of a strip negative electrode current collector, a negative electrode active material layer employing, as a negative electrode active material, a lithium metal, a lithium alloy, a carbon material capable of intercalating and deintercalating lithium ions or a compound capable of intercalating and deintercalating lithium ions; and

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery having at least a lithium-transition metal composite oxide of a layer structure,

~~wherein~~ wherein:

the lithium-transition metal composite oxide is lithium cobaltate,

an existence ratio of zirconium and magnesium is respectively 20% or more on a surface of the ~~lithium-transition metal composite oxide and~~ lithium cobaltate, and

at least a part of the zirconium on said surface is present as lithium zirconate and at least a part of the magnesium on said surface is present as magnesium oxide.

3-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery, comprising:

a strip positive electrode constituted by forming, on at least one side of a strip positive electrode current collector, a positive electrode active material layer employing the positive electrode active material for a nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to claim 2;

a strip negative electrode constituted by forming, on at least one side of a strip negative electrode current collector, a negative electrode active material layer employing, as a negative electrode active material, a lithium metal, a lithium alloy, a carbon material capable of intercalating and deintercalating lithium ions or a compound capable of intercalating and deintercalating lithium ions; and

a strip separator;

in which:

the strip positive electrode and the strip negative electrode laminated with the strip separator between them are wound plural times to form a web of the strip positive electrode and the strip negative electrode with the strip separator intervening between them.

18. (Canceled)